REPORT

AND

SPECIAL REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL;

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
21 *July* 1899.

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Great Southern and Western, and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation, and Great Southern and Western Railway Bills

Ordered.—[*Tuesday, 14th March* 1899]:—That the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill, and the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill be committed to a Select Committee of Nine Members, Five to be nominated by the House, and Four by the Committee of Selection.

That, subject to the Rules, Orders, and Proceedings of this House, all Petitions against the Bills be referred to the Committee, except in the case of the County Councils, under the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and that all such Petitions of the said County Councils shall not be so subject to the Rules, Orders, and Proceedings of this House, but may be presented seven clear days before the meeting of the Committee, and shall be referred to the Committee, and that such of the Petitioners as pray to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, Agent, or Witnesses be heard on their Petitions against the Bills, if they think fit, and Counsel heard in support of the Bills against such Petitions.

That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

That Five be the Quorum.

That it be an instruction to the Committee that they do inquire and report whether the adoption of any or all of the proposals contained in the Bills would, without adequate compensating advantages, prevent or prejudice adequate competition in the railway system of the South and West of Ireland, or in the system of communication between that Country and England and Wales.

Committee nominated of—

Mr. Firbank. Sir Robert Penrose FitzGerald. Mr. Samuel Morris. Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien. Mr. Patrick O'Brien.	Nominated by the House. [*Friday, 12th May* 1899.]
Mr. Ashton. Sir Cameron Gull. Mr. Kimber. Mr. W. F. Lawrence.	Added by the Committee of Selection. [*Friday, 12th May* 1899.]

[*Tuesday, 16th May* 1899]:—Select Committee on the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation, and Great Southern and Western Railway Bills:—

Mr. Kimber is discharged.

Mr. Hudson is added to the Committee.

[*Wednesday, 31st May* 1899]:—Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill,—read a second time.

Ordered, That the Bill be committed to the Committee on the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation, and Great Southern and Western Railway Bills.

That the orders made on 14th March in respect of the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill, and the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill, be applicable to the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill.

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Ordered,—[*Monday, 5th June* 1899]:—That the Order [14th March] that all Petitions of County Councils under the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, against the Bills, be presented seven clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee, and that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, or Agents or Witnesses, be heard against the Bills be suspended in the case of the Petition of the County Council of the County of Cork against the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill, and that the said Petition be referred to the Select Committee on the said Bills, and that the Petitioners be heard by their Counsel, Agents, or Witnesses against the said Bill.

Ordered,—[*Tuesday, 6th June* 1899]:—That the Order [14th March] that all Petitions of County Councils under the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, against the Bills presented seven clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee, and that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their Counsel, or Agents, or Witnesses be heard against the Bills be suspended in the case of the Petition of the County Council of Queen's County against the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill, and that the said Petition be referred to the Select Committee on the said Bills, and that the Petitioners be heard by their Counsel, Agent, or Witnesses against the said Bill.

[*Tuesday, 6th June* 1899]:—Sir Cameron Gull and Mr. Hudson are discharged, and Sir Harry Bullard and Mr. Bond are added to the Committee.

Ordered,—[*Friday, 9th June* 1899]:—That the parties appearing before the Select Committee on the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation, and other Bills, have leave to print the Minutes of the Evidence taken before the Committee day by day from the Clerk's copy, if they think fit.

Ordered,—[*Monday, 24th July* 1899]:—That the Order [14th March] that Five be the quorum of the Select Committee on the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford, Limerick and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation and other Bill—be read, and discharged.

That Three be the quorum of the Committee.

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REPORT.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD LIMERICK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL.

Sir Robert Penrose FitzGerald reported from the Select Committee on the Great Southern and Western and Waterford Limerick and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation, and other Bills: That in the case of the Great Southern and Western and Waterford Limerick and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill they had examined the allegations contained in the Preamble of the Bill, but the same had not been proved to their satisfaction.

SPECIAL REPORT.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN AND WATERFORD LIMERICK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION AND GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY AND WATERFORD AND CENTRAL IRELAND RAILWAY BILLS.

Sir Robert Penrose FitzGerald reported from the Select Committee on the Great Southern and Western and Waterford Limerick and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation and Great Southern and Western Railway and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bills: That they had agreed to the following Special Report:—

1. Your Committee have carefully kept in view during the Inquiry the Instruction of the House to the effect "That they do inquire and report whether the adoption of any or all of the proposals contained in the Bills would, without adequate compensating advantages, prevent or prejudice adequate competition in the railway system of the south and west of Ireland, or in the system of communication between that country and England and Wales."

2. The Committee have sat for 27 days and have examined 61 witnesses, and though they are aware that the pledges given last year to another Committee of this House (paragraphs 9 and 10, page 6 of Report on the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill, hereinafter quoted) obliged the Promoters to "push on without postponement the amalgamation scheme, so that if they (the shareholders of the Great Southern and Western Railway) approve them, a Bill would come before Parliament next Session," nevertheless the Committee think that considering the magnitude of the changes brought about by the alteration from the old grand jury system of Ireland to the more direct popular representation by means of county and district councils it would have been better if more time could have been given to those recently elected bodies to express their matured opinions on a scheme fraught with such far reaching consequences and such grave issues to the whole of the south and west of Ireland.

3. With regard to the Great Southern and Western and Waterford Limerick and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill, the Committee have decided that the Preamble of the Bill is not proved, and they are of opinion that some of the proposals contained in this Bill do "without adequate compensating advantages prevent or prejudice adequate competition in the railway system of the south and west of Ireland, or in the system of communication between that country and England and Wales."

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4. The Committee have not come to this conclusion without long inquiry, and even now they do so with some hesitation, but on the whole they prefer to give greater weight to the advisability of keeping the door open, at least for the present.

5. On the twenty-fourth day of their proceedings they were made aware that an offer to purchase the Waterford Limerick and Western Railway would be made by another company, viz., the Midland Great Western of Ireland.

6. They are aware that in 1898 the Committee on the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill stated in paragraph 12 of their Report: "Although Parliament cannot in the present Session deal finally with the two proposed amalgamations because they are not yet embodied in a Bill, your Committee are unable, after the evidence which they have heard, to withhold an expression of their unanimous opinion that in the interests of the south of Ireland they would regard with grave apprehensions the absorption of these two companies' undertaking by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company. Should either of these companies become too weak to stand alone, an amalgamation with some railway system other than the Great Southern and Western would seem preferable in the interests of competition."

7. The question the Committee had to decide seems to be this: Is it better in the interests of the country to hand over to one company, and that a company which does not appear to have altogether gained the confidence of the farmers, traders, and other inhabitants of the districts through which it runs, the absolute monopoly of the south and south-west of Ireland, which would undoubtedly be the case if the Great Southern and Western and Waterford and Limerick Amalgamation Bill was passed, or, by not passing the Preamble, give more time, in the hope that the Waterford and Limerick Company will improve its position?

8. With regard to the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill, the Committee are of opinion that the consideration of this Bill should not be entered upon during the present Session, for the following reason: That considering the importance of the Bill, and the weight of the evidence to be adduced thereon, it would be practically impossible for Parliament to come to a decision before the close of the present Session.

9. The Promoters are in this position. In 1898 they gave to the Committee on the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill a pledge, which is embodied in Section 72 of the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Act: "And whereas provisional agreements have been entered into between the Great Southern Company and the Limerick Company and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Company (in this section referred to as the 'Central Ireland Company') respectively subject to the approval of the shareholders of the said companies respectively for the amalgamation with the Great Southern Company of the Limerick Company and the Central Ireland Company respectively and the Great Southern Company have pledged themselves if such approval is obtained to apply to Parliament in the next Session for Parliamentary sanction to such amalgamations therefore until such approval has been refused or such application to Parliament has been disposed of (as the case may be) the Great Southern Company shall not diminish the facilities now afforded &c. &c."

10. Under these circumstances the Committee recommend that notwithstanding the readiness of the Promoters to proceed with the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill, and so fulfil their pledge, it is advisable, having regard to the period of the Session which has been reached, that the Order for the Committal of that Bill, and the instruction relating thereto, be discharged.

The Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bill is a Bill for extension of time only, but as it seems impossible that the Bill should pass through all its stages in the present Session, the Committee recommend that the Order for the committal of that Bill also be discharged, and that both Bills be withdrawn.

21 *July* 1899.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Tuesday, 16*th May* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Kimber.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Sir Cameron Gull.
Sir R Penrose FitzGerald.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Lawrence.

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD was called to the Chair.

The Committee deliberated, and appointed Wednesday, the 7th day of June, for the first meeting of the Committee on the Bills.

[Adjourned till Wednesday, 7th June, at Eleven o'clock.

Wednesday, 7*th June* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Bond.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Ashton.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL.

Counsel:—Mr. *Pope*, Q.C., Mr. *Pember*, Q.C., Mr. *Balfour Browne*, Q.C., Mr. *Macinerney*, Q.C., Mr. *Moon*, Mr. *Mordaunt Snagge*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Sherwood & Co.*

Petitions against the Bill read as follows:

1. MITCHELSTOWN AND FERMOY LIGHT RAILWAY COMPANY.

   Counsel:—The Hon. *J. D. FitzGerald*, Q.C., Mr. *J. F. Murphy*.

   Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

2. ATHENRY AND TUAM EXTENSION TO CLAREMORRIS RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

   Counsel:—The Hon. *J. D. FitzGerald*, Q.C., Mr. *J. F. Murphy*.

   Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

3. WEST CLARE RAILWAY COMPANY.

   Counsel:—Reserved.

   Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

4. WATERFORD HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

   Counsel:—Reserved.

   Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

5. CORPORATION OF WATERFORD.

   Counsel:—Reserved.

   Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

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6. MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN OF IRELAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

Counsel:—Mr. *Littler*, C.B., Q.C., Mr. *Blennerhassett*, Q.C., Mr. *Vesey Knox*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Martin & Leslie*.

7. LIMERICK AND KERRY, RATHKEALE AND NEWCASTLE JUNCTION, AND TRALEE AND FENIT RAILWAY COMPANIES.

Counsel:—Mr. *Acworth*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Martin & Leslie*.

8. TRALEE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, AND TRALEE AND FENIT PIER AND HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

Counsel:—Mr. *Blennerhassett*, Q.C., Mr. *Pierce Mahony*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

9. DUBLIN, WICKLOW, AND WEXFORD RAILWAY COMPANY.

Counsel:—Reserved.

Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

10. ARTHUR GUINNESS, SONS AND COMPANY.

Counsel:—Reserved.

Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

11. EARL OF LISTOWEL AND WILLIAM BARRINGTON.

Counsel:—Mr. *Pierce Mahony*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

12. CLONMEL CORPORATION.

Counsel:—Reserved.

Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig & Greig*.

13. SLIGO HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

Counsel:—Reserved.

Agents:—Messrs. *Clay & Close*.

14. CORK HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

Counsel:—The Hon. *J. D. FitzGerald*, Q.C., Mr. *Acworth*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Grahames, Currey & Spens*.

15. GLASGOW, DUBLIN, AND LONDONDERRY STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

Counsel:—Mr. *Acworth*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Grahames, Currey & Spens*.

16. GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Counsel:—Mr. *Worsley-Taylor*, Q.C., Mr. *Honoratus Lloyd*.

Agent:—Mr. *R. R. Nelson*.

17. LIMERICK CORPORATION.

Counsel:—Mr. *J. G. Taylor*, Q.C., Mr. *Pierce Mahony*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Batten & Co*.

18. LIMERICK HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.

Counsel:—Mr. *Pembroke Stephens*, Q.C., Mr. *Acworth*, Mr. *John O'Connor*.

Agents:—Messrs. *Batten & Co*.

19. WATERFORD,

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19. WATERFORD, LIMERICK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.
Counsel:—Mr. *Pembroke Stephens*, Q.C., Mr. *Sullivan*, Q.C., Mr. *A. J. Rain*.
Agents:—Messrs. *Bell*.

20. WATERFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.
Counsel:—Mr. *Rickards*.
Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig, and Greig*.

21. KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL.
Counsel:—Mr. *Blennerhassett*, Q.C., Mr. *Pierce Mahony*.
Agents:—Messrs. *Holmes, Greig, and Greig*.

22. LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL.
Counsel:—Mr. *Pembroke Stephens*, Q.C.
Agents:—Messrs. *Lewin & Co.*

23. COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH RIDING OF TIPPERARY.
Counsel:—Mr. *John O'Connor*.
Agents:—Messrs. *Bircham & Co.*

24. CORK COUNTY COUNCIL.
Counsel:—The Honourable *J. D. FitzGerald*, Q.C.
Agents:—Messrs. *Grahames, Currey and Spens*.

25. GREAT NORTHERN OF IRELAND RAILWAY COMPANY (against Alterations).
Counsel reserved.
Agents:—Messrs. *Dyson & Co.*

Preamble read the first time.

Mr. *Pope*, Q.C., was heard in support of the Preamble.

Mr. *Pember*, Q.C., called evidence on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Percy Bernard* sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Thursday, 8th June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.	Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Ashton.	Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.	Mr. Bond.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.	Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued*.

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Percy Bernard* further examined.

Mr. *George S. Gibb* sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

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Friday, 9th June, 1899

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Bond.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Sir Harry Bullard
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

The Committee deliberated.

The Chairman made the following announcement:—"I think it right that I should state at once that the Committee having deliberated have determined that it may be quite necessary for them to call independent witnesses, in case such witnesses should be left out and not be called by any of the parties interested and represented here. The Committee have decided, of course, for the saving of time as well as for other reasons, that they will require a short précis of evidence to be submitted to them before they entertain this independent evidence from anybody; and with regard to any witnesses who have anything to say with regard to the Bills now before this Committee, if they will send in their names with a short précis of the evidence they propose to give to the Committee, the Committee will decide whether they will hear them or not. The Committee have done that because they consider it quite possible there might be some evidence left out which, with all respect and deference to the learned gentlemen present, might affect the Committee, but might not affect the direct interests of the case which each learned gentleman is representing. Therefore, if anybody desires to send any names of witnesses whom they think it will be right for the Committee to examine, we will consider the précis they send in of the evidence, and then let them know whether we shall call them or not."

After some discussion, the Chairman made the following further statement:—"The Committee have unanimously decided: That all précis sent in by these independent witnesses to the Committee shall, whether such witnesses be called or not by the Committee, be handed to the various Counsel interested in the case."

Mr. *George S. Gibb* further examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Tuesday, 13th June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Thomas Henry Cleeve*, Sir *David Roche*, and Mr. *Heffernan Considine* were sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

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Wednesday, 14*th June* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Bond.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Hefferman Considine* further examined.

Mr. *John Greenhill*, Lieutenant-General *Dunham Massey*, Mr. *William Eaton*, and Lieutenant-Colonel *Tottenham* were sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Thursday, 15*th June* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Henry Valentine Macnamara*, Mr. *William Henry McCowen*, and the Rev. *Michael Kevenev*, were sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Friday, 16*th June* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Richard Savage*, jun., Mr. *William Henry Scarff*, and Mr. *Robert Sanders*, were sworn and examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

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Tuesday, 20th June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Bond.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Henry M. A. Murphy*, Mr. *James McDonnell*, Mr. *Patrick Murphy*, Mr. *Conor O'Kelly*, Mr. *John P. O'Connor*, Mr. *Mark C. Henry*, Mr. *Thomas Campbell*, Mr. *Martin McDonnell D'Arcy*, and Mr. *Cochran Davys*, were sworn and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Wednesday, 21st June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Ashton
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Firbank
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Robert George Colhoun*, sworn and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Thursday, 22nd June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Robert George Colhoun* further examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

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Friday, 23rd June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Bond.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Firbank.
Sir Harry Bullard.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Mr. *Sullivan*, Q.C., appearing for the Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Company, made an application to the Committee with respect to his rights as Counsel for Petitioners against alterations.

The Committee deliberated.

The Chairman stated that the Committee had decided that, in accordance with the practice of Committees, Petitioners against alterations can only be heard against such alterations when proposed or agreed to by the Promoters, and not when proposed only by Petitioners against the Bill.

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Robert George Colhoun* further examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Half-past Eleven.

Tuesday, 27th June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promotors.

Mr. *Robert George Colhoun* further examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven.

Wednesday, 28th June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Bond.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Firbank.
Sir Harry Bullard.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called on behalf of the Promoters.

Mr. *Joseph Loftus Wilkinson*, sworn, and examined.

This concluded the case for the Promoters.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

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Thursday, 29th June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Mr. *Pembroke Stephens*, Q.C., was heard in support of the Petition of the Limerick Harbour Commissioners against the Bill

Evidence called in support of the Petition.

Mr *John Francis Power*, sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Friday, 30th June 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Bond.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Mr. *Littler*, Q.C., called evidence in support of the Petition of the Midland Great Western Railway Company.

Mr. *Edward J. Tighe*, Mayor of Sligo, sworn, and examined.

Mr. *J. F. Taylor*, Q.C., called evidence in support of the Petition of the Limerick Corporation.

Mr. *John Daly*, Mayor of Limerick, sworn, and examined.

Further evidence called in support of the Petition of the Limerick Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. *J. F. Power* further examined.

Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Tuesday, 4th July 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. Bond.
Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Firbank.
Sir Harry Bullard.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

The Committee deliberated.

Further evidence called in support of the Petition of the Limerick Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. *J. F. Power* further examined.

Mr. *Alexander W. Shaw*, sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

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Wednesday, 5th July 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. Ashton.
Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called in support of the Petition of the Limerick Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. *A. W. Shaw* further examined.

Mr. *William Holliday*, Mr. *Martin Sheehan*, and Mr. *William Stokes*, were sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Thursday, 6th July 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Firbank.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called in support of the Petition of the Limerick Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. *Archibald Murray*, Mr. *Lawrence Hayes*, Mr. *Andrew Dougall*, and Lord *Monteagle of Brandon*, sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Friday, 7th July 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Lord *Monteagle of Brandon* further examined.

Mr. *J. G. Taylor*, Q.C., was heard on behalf of the Petition of the Limerick Corporation against the Bill.

Mr. *Blennerhasset*, Q.C., called evidence in support of the Petition of the Kerry County Council against the Bill.

Mr. *FitzGerald* sworn, and examined

The following Witness was called by the Committee:—

Mr. *R. A. Anderson* sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

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Tuesday, 11*th July* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Ashton.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Bond.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

The Committee deliberated.

Further evidence called by the Committee.

Mr. *W. T. Trench*, Mr. *W. K. Fayle*, and Lieutenant-Colonel *O'Callaghan Westropp*, were sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Wednesday, 12*th July* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Bond.
Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Mr. *Blennerhassett*, Q.C., was heard in support of the Petition of the Kerry County Council against the Bill.

Evidence called in support of the Petition.

Mr. *James D. Crosbie*, Mr. *St. John Henry Donovan*, Mr. *Alexander O'Driscoll*, and Mr. *F. C. Downing*, were sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Thursday, 13*th July* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. Bond.
Mr. Ashton.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Firbank.
Sir Harry Bullard.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Mr. *Blennerhassett*, Q.C., called evidence in support of the Petition of the Tralee Urban District Council, and Tralee and Fenit Pier and Harbour Commissioners.

Mr. *Thomas Slattery*, Mr. *Maurice Kelliher*, and Mr. *Jeremiah Slattery*, were sworn, and examined.

Room cleared.—The Committee deliberated.

Parties

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Parties called in

Mr. *Pierce Mahony* was heard in support of the above Petition.

Mr. *John O'Connor* called evidence in support of the Petition of the County Council of the South Riding of Tipperary.

Dr. *J. F. O'Ryan* sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Friday, 14*th July* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair

Mr. Bond.	Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Ashton.	Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.	Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.	Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called in support of the Petition of the County Council of the South Riding of Tipperary.

Mr. *Darby Scully* sworn, and examined.

Dr. *Laffan* sworn, and examined.

Mr. *John O'Connor* was heard in support of the above Petition.

The following Witness was called by the Committee:—

Mr. *John J. Murphy*, Secretary to the Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Company, sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Tuesday, 18*th July* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.	Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Ashton.	Mr. Bond.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.	Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.	Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

The following Witnesses were called by the Committee:—

Mr. *Frederick Vaughan*, Traffic Manager of the Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway Company, sworn, and examined.

Mr. *Thomas Elgood Sifton*, Assistant Secretary at the Post Office, and Inspector General of Mails, was examined by the Committee.

Mr. *Vesey Knox* called evidence in support of the Petition of the Midland Great Western Railway Company of Ireland.

Mr. *Arthur Jackson* sworn, and examined.

Room cleared.

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The Committee deliberated.

The Chairman called the attention of the Committee to the following communication which he had received from Mr. W. K. Fayle, one of the Witnesses summoned by the Committee.

To Sir *R. U. Penrose FitzGerald*, Bart., M.P.

Sir, Parsonstown, 15 July 1899.

As one of the Witnesses summoned by your Committee, I regret very much to have to call your attention to a matter which to me at least is painful.

At the close of the evidence which I tendered on 11th inst., I was severely cross-examined by counsel to the Great Southern and Western Railway Company upon some evidence I had given, and there was a doubt expressed as to the accuracy of my remembrance as to certain rates charged; I have no complaint to make about this, as errors may easily arise on either side, as to details of questions suddenly arising.

My statement was substantially correct.

At the close of my evidence the Committee adjourned for luncheon, and I left the room in the company of Mr. Trench, D.L., who preceded me in giving evidence. In the crowd outside, Mr. Colhoun, the Traffic Manager of the Great Southern and Western Railway was beside me, and I said to him, merely as a matter of courtesy, "I am sorry to have to oppose you, Mr. Colhoun."

Mr. Colhoun then with much heat and anger denied the truth of my evidence more especially referred to above, and after angry words, said, in reference to my evidence, "You should have remembered you were on your oath."

This charge of what would amount to perjury on my part before your Committee was made in the hearing of Mr. Trench, and perhaps, for aught I know, in the hearing of others.

As no withdrawal or apology even for this gross charge has reached me, and as I cannot afford to leave such a charge unrefuted, I with much regret report the matter to you. I am prepared to appear if you should so order, and I am now authorised by Mr. Trench to say that if desired he will attend and confirm the above.

I enclose a letter from Mr. Trench to whom I have shown this letter.

I have, &c.
(signed) *W. K. Fayle.*

"Sir, Redwood, Lowha, Roserea, 16 July 1899.

"I HAVE read Mr. Fayle's letter to you describing what passed between him and Mr. Colhoun on last Tuesday, the day on which Mr. Fayle and I gave evidence before your Committee. I am prepared to corroborate fully Mr. Fayle's account of the transaction, the words complained of by him having been used by Mr. Colhoun in my presence.

"I am, &c.
"(signed) *W. T. Trench*"

"Sir R. U. Penrose FitzGerald, Bart, M.P.,
"Chairman of Committee,
"Great Southern Railway Amalgamation Bill
"House of Commons."

[*Note.*—This letter was not enclosed in Mr. Fayle's, but reached the Chairman on the following day.]

The Chairman stated that he had shown Mr. Fayle's letter to Mr. Colhoun, and proceeded to read an explanatory letter addressed to him by Mr. Colhoun, as follows:—

Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.

Sir, 18 July 1899.

With reference to Mr. Fayle's letter enclosed, I beg to say that he accosted me in the lobby with the remark that he was sorry to be at conflict with me.

I remarked that his was a damaging statement to the effect that as a result of the Railway Rates Inquiry under the Act of 1888, we had generally increased our rates.

On my endeavouring to assure him to the contrary, he replied that he was speaking to the best of his belief or words to that effect. I said, "Ah, Mr. Fayle, you were upon your oath." Nothing further passed.

My only object was to point out the danger of being too positive, and I very much regret he should have taken offence, especially having regard to the friendly business relations which had subsisted between us for so many years.

The new classification and rates came into force early in 1893. I have the honour to enclose a comparison showing those put in force at that period, and those operating previously between Dublin (Kingsbridge), and Parsonstown, Mr. Fayle's station, which will show how far he is mistaken. I do not put it higher or lower, my anxiety being that an incorrect impression should not be left upon the minds of the Committee.

I take leave to refer you to Question 11,146 as containing Mr. Fayle's observation to which exception was taken.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Robert G. Colhoun.*

Sir R. U. Penrose FitzGerald, Bart., M.P.

After

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After a short discussion :—

Motion made, and question proposed, "That the following letter, together with a copy of Mr. Colhoun's, enclosed, be sent by the Chairman to Mr. Fayle."

"Sir,

"The enclosed is a copy of a letter I have received from Mr. Colhoun, to whom I showed your communication, and the Committee will be glad to hear if you desire the matter to go any further" —(Mr *Firbank*).

Amendment proposed, after the word "further" at the end, to add the following words "The Committee hope you will be able to accept it as a sufficient explanation of an unfortunate expression"—(Mr. *Bond*).

Question put,—That those words be there added.—The Committee divided:

Ayes 3.	Noes 5.
Mr. Bond.	Mr. Ashton.
Sir Harry Bullard.	Mr. Firbank.
Mr. W. F. Lawrence.	Mr. Samuel Morris.
	Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
	Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Original question put, and *agreed to*.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Wednesday, 19*th July* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Bond.
Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called in support of the Petition of the Midland Great Western Railway Company of Ireland.

Mr. *Thomas G. Stacpole Mahon*, Mr. *Michael Alexander Scanlan*, Mr. *Patrick Joseph Linnane*, and Mr. *Joseph Tatlow*, were sworn, and examined.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Thursday, 20*th July* 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Mr. Samuel Morris.
Mr. Ashton
Mr. Bond.
Mr. Firbank.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Further evidence called in support of the Petition of the Midland Great Western Railway Company of Ireland.

Mr. *Joseph Tatlow* further examined.

Mr. *Henry William Cary Reeves* sworn, and examined.

Room cleared.

The Committee deliberated.

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The Committee decided to hear no more evidence on behalf of the Midland Great Western Railway Company of Ireland, but to call on Mr *Littler* to sum up the case for that company and then to hear Mr *Pope's* reply on the whole case.

Parties called in, and informed thereof.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at Eleven o'clock.

Friday, 21st July 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.	Mr. Bond.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.	Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Samuel Morris.	Sir Harry Bullard.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN, AND WATERFORD, LIMERICK, AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANIES AMALGAMATION BILL—*continued.*

Mr. *Littler*, Q.C., was heard in support of the Petition of the Midland Great Western Railway Company of Ireland against the Bill.

Mr. *Pope*, Q.C., was heard to reply on the whole case.

Room cleared.

The Committee deliberated.

Question put,—That the Preamble is proved.

The Committee divided:

Ayes 3.	Noes 5.
Mr. Bond.	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Firbank.	Sir Harry Bullard.
Mr. W. F. Lawrence.	Mr. Samuel Morris.
	Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
	Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Parties called in, and informed thereof.

Ordered, to Report.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

Tuesday, 25th July 1899.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir ROBERT PENROSE FITZGERALD in the Chair.

Mr. W. F. Lawrence.	Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Bond.	Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Sir Harry Bullard.	Mr. Firbank.
Mr. Ashton.	

Room cleared.—The Committee deliberated.

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DRAFT SPECIAL REPORT, proposed by the *Chairman*, brought up, and read the first time, as follows:—

"1. Your Committee have carefully kept in view, during the inquiry, the Instruction of the House to the effect 'That they do inquire and report whether the adoption of any or all of the proposals contained in the Bills would, without adequate compensating advantages, prevent or prejudice adequate competition in the railway system of the South and West of Ireland, or in the system of communication between that country and England and Wales.'

"2. The Committee have sat for 27 days, and have examined 61 witnesses, and though they are aware that the pledges given last year to another Committee of this House (paragraphs 9 and 10, page 6, of Report on the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill, hereinafter quoted) obliged the promoters to 'push on without postponement the amalgamation scheme, so that if they (the shareholders of the Great Southern and Western Railway) approve them, a Bill would come before Parliament next Session'; nevertheless, the Committee think that, considering the magnitude of the changes brought about by the alteration from the old Grand Jury system of Ireland to the more direct popular representation by means of County and District Councils, it would have been better if more time could have been given to these recently-elected bodies to express their matured opinions on a scheme fraught with such far-reaching consequences, and such grave issues, to the whole of the South and West of Ireland.

"3. With regard to the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford Limerick, and Western Railway Companies Amalgamation Bill, the Committee have decided that the Preamble of the Bill is not proved, and they are of opinion that some of the proposals contained in this Bill would, without adequate compensating advantages, prevent or prejudice adequate competition in the railway system in the south and west of Ireland, or in the system of communication between that country and England and Wales.'

"4. The Committee have not come to this conclusion without long inquiry, and even now they do so with some hesitation; but on the whole they prefer to give greater weight to the advisability of keeping the door open at least for the present, in the hope that some other combination may be possible than the present, which would for ever close the door to any chance of competition in the south and west of Ireland.

"5. On the 24th day of their proceedings they were made aware that an offer to purchase the Waterford, Limerick, and Western Railway had been made by another company, viz., the Midland Great Western of Ireland.

"6. They are aware that in 1898 the Committee on the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill stated, in paragraph 12 of their report: 'Although Parliament cannot in the present Session deal finally with the two proposed amalgamations, because they are not yet embodied in a Bill, your Committee are unable, after the evidence which they have heard, to withhold an expression of their unanimous opinion that in the interests of the South of Ireland they would regard with grave apprehensions the absorption of these two companies' undertakings by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company. Should either of these companies become too weak to stand alone, an amalgamation with some railway system, other than the Great Southern and Western, would seem preferable, in the interests of competition.'

"7. The question the Committee had to decide seems to be this: Is it better, in the interests of the country, to hand over to one company, and that a company which does not appear to have altogether gained the confidence of the farmers, traders, and other inhabitants of the districts through which it runs, the absolute monopoly of the South and South-West of Ireland, which would undoubtedly be the case if the Great Southern and Western, and Waterford and Limerick Amalgamation Bill was passed; or, by not passing the Preamble, give more time in the hope that some other company may come to terms with the Waterford and Limerick, or that the Waterford and Limerick Company will reform itself from within.

"8. The Committee have spent some time in considering various forms of words, purporting to be clauses for the protection of traders and the general public from excessive rates and fares, which it was thought, and not altogether without some reason, might be a possible result of the enormous monopoly which would be the result of this Bill being passed. They have come to the conclusion that it is not possible, in the present instance, so to frame such clause or clauses as will successfully carry out this object in all possible future contingencies, without unfairly interfering with, and unduly hampering the legitimate success and growth of the railway company itself.

"9. With regard to the Great Southern and Western Railway, and Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Bills, the Committee are of opinion that the consideration of these Bills should not be entered upon during the present Session, for the following reasons:—That considering the importance of the Great Southern and Western Railway Bill, and the weight of the evidence to be adduced thereon, it would be practically impossible for Parliament to come to a decision before the close of the present Session.

"10. The promoters are in this position. In 1898 they gave to the Committee on the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill, a pledge, which is embodied in Section 72 of the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Act: 'And whereas provisional agreements have been entered into between the Great Southern Company and the Limerick Company, and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway Company (in this section referred to as the "Central Ireland Company"), respectively, subject to the approval of the shareholders of the said companies, respectively, for the amalgamation with the Great Southern Company of the Limerick Company and

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and the Central Ireland Company respectively, and the Great Southern Company have pledged themselves, if such approval is obtained, to apply to Parliament in the next Session for Parliamentary sanction to such amalgamations: therefore, until such approval has been refused, or such application to Parliament has been disposed of, as the case may be, the Great Southern Company shall not diminish the facilities now afforded,' &c., &c.

"11. Under these circumstances, the Committee recommend that notwithstanding the readiness of the promoters to proceed with the Bills, and so fulfil their pledge, it is advisable at this period of the Session that they (the promoters) be released from the above-mentioned statutory obligations, and for this reason the Committee suggest that the Order for the committal of these two Bills and for the Instruction to the Committee be discharged, and the Bills, viz., The Great Southern and Western Railway, and the Waterford and Central Ireland Railway, be withdrawn.

Question, That the Draft Special Report be read a second time paragraph by paragraph,—put, and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 1—10 *postponed*.

Paragraph 11 amended, and *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraphs 1 and 2 *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraphs 3—5 amended, and *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraph 6 *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraph 7 amended, and *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraph 8.

Question put, That this paragraph stand part of the proposed Special Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 2.	Noes, 3.
Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.	Mr. Ashton.
Mr. Patrick O'Brien	Sir Harry Bullard.
	Mr. Firbank.

Paragraph 9 amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 10 *agreed to*.

Question, That this Report, as amended, be the Special Report of the Committee to the House,—put, and *agreed to*.

The *Chairman* read a letter which he had received from Mr. W. K. Faylo, with reference to the proceedings of Tuesday, 18th July, as follows:—

"Sir, "Myrtle Hill House, Cork, 21 July 1899.

"I AM much obliged for yours of 18th instant, which has just come and followed me here from Birr. Mr. Colhoun does not deal with the main point, viz., the suggestion that I had while under oath stated that which I knew to be untrue. It is not a question of versions; either he made the accusation or he did not. If he did not, or did not intend to do so, then the straightforward thing to say is: I did not, and did not intend to make any such insinuation, and if I conveyed in my words any such insinuation, I withdraw them and am sorry for the mistake. The Committee called me as their witness, and I leave the matter in their hands. It is for them to say in their superior judgment whether the promoter of a Bill is to treat their witness in this manner.

"I am, &c.,
(signed) "*W. K. Fayle.*

"Sir R. U. Penrose FitzGerald, Bart, M P.,
"Chairman of the Committee,
"Great Southern and Western Railway
"Amalgamation Bill."

Motion made, and Question put, That the Committee take no further proceedings in this matter—(The *Chairman*).—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 3.	Noes, 2.
Mr. Ashton.	Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien.
Sir Harry Bullard.	Mr. Patrick O'Brien.
Mr. Firbank.	

Ordered, to Report.

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EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

NAME OF WITNESS.	Profession or Condition.	From whence Summoned.	Number of Days Absent from Home, under Orders of Committee.	Allowance during Absence from Home.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
				£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Mr. R. A. Anderson -	Secretary, Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.	Dublin - - -	2	2 2 0	5 4 0	7 6 0
Lieut.-Colonel O'Callaghan Westropp.	Land Agent - -	Coolreagh - -	7	7 7 0	7 10 6	14 17 6
Mr. W. K. Fayle - -	Tradesman - - -	Parsonstown - -	7	5 6 0	4 10 6	9 16 6
Mr. W. T. Trench -	Gentleman - - -	Lowha - - -	7	7 7 0	3 2 0	10 9 0
				TOTAL - - - £.		42 8 0

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